

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 199215

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR

SUBJECT:REQUEST FOR PORT CLEARANCE R/V THOMAS THOMPSON
AT PETROPAVLOVSK

1. THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON HAS ITS RESEARCH VESSEL THOMAS THOMPSON IN THE BERING SEA, 28 SEPT THRU 12 NOV, AS PART OF LONG RANGE PROGRAM OF PHYSICAL OCEANOGRAPHIC INVESTIGATION OF THE AREA. FOUR PREVIOUS CRUISES, SUMMERS OF 1969 THRU 1972, HAVE GIVEN SCIENTISTS A PICTURE OF THE SUMMER CIRCULATION PATTERNS, AND HAVE ENABLED THEM TO MAKE ESTIMATES OF THE TRANSPORT OF WATER MASS, HEAT AND SALT BOTH WITHIN THE SEA ITSELF AND AS EXCHANGED WITH THE NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN. THESE PATTERNS UNDERGO CONSIDERABLE SEASONAL CHANGE SINCE DRIVING FORCE IS MUCH GREATER IN WINTER. UNFORTUNATELY ACCURATE COMPARISONS/EXTRAPOLATIONS BETWEEN WINTER/SUMMER REGIMES ARE DIFFICULT DUE CHIEFLY TO LACK OF DATA DURING WINTER. REALIZING THE WEATHER DETERIORATES RAPIDLY AS WINTER APPROACHES, THE SCIENTISTS HAVE ELECTED TO CONDUCT THEIR PROGRAM DURING THE FALL TRANSITION PERIOD. AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAM OF OBSERVATIONS HAS BEEN LAID OUT. THE RESEARCH DOES NOT INVOLVE WORK WITHIN THE SOVIET TERRITORIAL SEA OR CONCERNING THEIR CONTINENTAL SHELF, ALTHOUGH THE VESSEL MAY ANCHOR THERE BRIEFLY.

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2. THE UNIVERSITY HAD ORIGINALLY CONSIDERED ATTEMPTING TO BUNKER AND PROVISION AT PETROPAVLOVSK. INSTEAD THEY HAVE

ALTERED THE VESSEL'S TRACK SLIGHTLY AND WILL GET THEIR SUPPLIES ENTIRELY AT US PORTS. THE SCIENTISTS STILL WISH TO CALL AT PETROPAVLOVSK, BOTH AS COURTESY AND WITH AN EYE TO EXAMINING PORT'S SUITABILITY FOR FUTURE CALLS DURING R/V THOMPSON'S BERING SEA WORK. AN INVITATION WAS EXTENDED TO SEVERAL SOVIET INSTITUTIONS TO JOIN THE VESSEL AND PARTICIPATE, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN NO ACCEPTANCES.

3. THOMAS THOMPSON CHARACTERISTICS ARE AS PER APPENDIX US-USSR MARITIME AGREEMENT. MASTER IS CLANTON W. CLAMPITT WITH CIVILIAN OFFICER/CREW COMPLEMENT OF 20, ALSO ABOARD IS SCIENTIFIC PARTY OF 7 UNDER DIRECTION OF DR. LAWRENCE COACHMAN.

4. ACTION: EMBASSY SHOULD SUBMIT TO APPROPRIATE SOVIET AUTHORITIES REQUEST FOR R/V THOMAS THOMPSON TO CALL AT PETROPAVLOVSK OCT 24 THRU 27. ALTHOUGH PETROPAVLOVSK IS NOT ONE OF FORTY PORTS IN AGREEMENT OPEN TO 4 HOUR NOTICE, MANY SOVIET CALLS HAVE BEEN PERMITTED AT US PORTS SIMILARLY NOT AMONG 40 ON BASIS 14-DAY ADVANCE REQUEST. R/V THOMAS THOMPSON IS LISTED IN US-USSR MARITIME AGREEMENT (SIDELETTER, PETERSON-GUZHENKO, OCT 14, 1972). THESE POINTS SHOULD BE MADE BY EMBASSY TO SOVIET AUTHORITIES IN SUBMITTING REQUEST. RUSH

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